

Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form

Property Name: Collinson Property
Address: 4758 Solomons Island Road (MD 002)
City: Harwood **Zip Code:** 20776
USGS Quadrangle(s): Deale
Property Owner: _____ **Tax Account ID Number:** _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0065 **Tax Map Number:** 0064
Project: MD 002 at Owensville Sudley Road and Harwood Drive **Agency:** MD State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: MD State Highway Administration
Preparer's Name: Rebecca Crew **Date Prepared:** 11/16/2011
Documentation Is Presented In: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:				<u> </u>	Eligibility Recommended			<u>X</u>	Eligibility Not Recommended			
Criteria:	A	B	C	D	Considerations:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: _____ Yes Listed: _____ Yes

Site Visit by MHT Staff: Yes No Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Collinson Property at 4758 Solomons Island Road in Harwood, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, is a 219-acre parcel surrounding, and formerly associated with, the National Register-listed manor house Oakwood (AA-741). The property, located on the west side of Maryland State Route 2, Solomons Island Road, contains three dwellings and several agricultural buildings, spread over rolling topography. The headwaters of Rock Branch run through the middle of the property. The land is primarily utilized as cultivated fields for soybeans, corn, and hay; significant wooded areas are present as well. The family that owns the property refers to the farm as Oakwood.

The main house on the property is located at the southern edge of the property, accessed via an approximately quarter-mile driveway west of Solomons Island Road. The house is a one-and-a-half-story, gambrel-roofed, frame Craftsman dwelling. The house's character-defining features include tapered wood posts on brick pedestals; plain window surrounds; a partial-width front porch; decorative exposed beams; and multiple rooflines including low-pitched components with wide eaves.

The house's overall footprint is roughly rectangular with a small, square, rear addition, but its multiple rooflines create a complicated mass. Its main roof is a front-facing gambrel, from which wide, symmetrical, shed-roofed dormers extend to each side. The primary (east) facade's south end has a decorative, shallow-pitched cornice, extending south from a low-pitched, gable-roofed wraparound porch at the house's northeast corner. The porch's dimensions are two bays wide by two bays deep.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended:	<u> </u>	Eligibility Not Recommended:	<u><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></u>
Criteria:	A B C D	Considerations:	A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Tim Coleman ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, National Register Program

12/20/2011
Date

12/22/11
Date

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and the porch's gable end faces north. An additional, medium-pitched, decorative cornice extends from the porch's northwest end, along the house's north elevation. The rear addition has a rear-facing, medium-pitched gable roof.

The front porch contains the house's primary entrance in the south bay of the porch or the center bay of the primary facade. A wood door with a single light two-thirds its length is accessed via wood steps and comprises the entrance. Tapered wood posts on brick pedestals support the porch's roof and divide the porch into its two-bay-wide by two-bay-deep composition. Vinyl-sided half walls and stacked awning windows enclose the porch in a relatively recent alteration. The porch's gable end features oversized beams resting above the tapered posts and extending past the roofline. The square ridgeline beam extends slightly beyond the roofline and rests on a t-shaped beam. The square beam on t-shaped supporting beam is repeated in the houses's main gambrel roof and the decorative cornices located to either side of the porch.

The house primarily retains its original fenestration patterns. To the south of the front porch and sheltered by the decorative cornice is a tripartite window with large center fixed light and narrow, two-over-one, sash side units. The south elevation contains a face-level, horizontal-rectangular light, and the rear addition features one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash windows but the remaining windows retain a three vertical lights over one light fenestration patter. Narrow lights above a larger light are typical of Craftsman design and likely original.

The house retains a moderate level of material integrity. Vinyl siding, which is not original, covers the exterior walls. Brick form the porch's foundation, although the remainder of the foundation is poured concrete. Corbelled brick chimneys flank the north elevation's shed-roofed dormer. While the house is a somewhat unique example of the Craftsman style, it is not an exceptional example, and does not convey architectural significance as the Craftsman style is commonly found throughout Maryland.

Several barns and a contemporary dwelling are clustered west of the main dwelling. The three-bay garage is immediately west of the house. It has concrete masonry and a gable roof and was built in 1947. A concrete masonry, shed-roofed chicken coop is southwest of the garage, opposite the gravel driveway. A wood and concrete masonry cow barn, built in 1952, is west of the chicken coop. The wood portion is a one-and-one-half-story tall, frame structure clad in vertical wood planks and covered by a medium-pitched, standing-seam metal, gable roof. The concrete masonry east wing is a single-story and has a shed-roof. A large tobacco barn is north of the cow barn and west of the garage and main dwelling. It is approximately two-and-one-half stories tall, with a steeply-pitched, corrugated metal, gable roof. The contemporary dwelling, indicated as a trailer on a 1992 survey of the property, is north of the tobacco barn and northwest of the main house. It features frame construction over a concrete masonry basement. It has a vinyl siding, an asymmetrical facade, and a side-gabled roof. A second tobacco barn is north of the contemporary dwelling. It has a broken gable roof and faces east.

The third dwelling on the property is approximately center to the parcel, east of a spring. It is a modest tenant house with poured concrete foundation, vinyl-clad siding, side-gabled roof, and rear, shed-roofed addition. Its primary facade is three bays wide with central entrance. A small poured concrete stoop is sheltered by a cantilevered gable-roofed pediment. The original side elevations are two bays deep, but the addition adds a third bay. The house has replacement, six-over-six vinyl-sash windows with plain wood surrounds. Standing seam metal covers the roof, which features close-set eaves and rake. The vernacular house depicts no particular architectural style. The property's context suggest that the house site likely dates to the

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

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Date

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nineteenth century, but the current materials, particularly its concrete foundation, suggests a twentieth century construction date and perhaps re-building on an existing house site. A concrete masonry foundation of a former dwelling is elsewhere on the property, but is not considered a standing structure and was not surveyed.

A group of five tobacco barns stands west of the tenant house, opposite the headwaters of Rock Branch, and southeast of the Oakwood manor house. According to a member of the Collinson family, the barns were relocated to this location in the 1960s, perhaps from the site of nearby Southern High School, which was built in 1968. Three barns stand in an open clearing, with the ridgelines oriented east-west. They have rectangular footprints, steeply-pitched gabled metal roofs. The northeast of these barns has a corrugated metal roof and is missing a significant amount of its exterior vertical wood siding. The southeast and northwest barns have standing seam metal roof. The fourth barn is east of these three and is in a collapsed state. The fifth barn is west of the three middle barns and is set in the woods. It is characterized by a steeply-pitched, asymmetrical, gable roof that extends further to the south than to the north side.

History

The property has a long history as a tobacco plantation, typical of this area of Anne Arundel County and Southern Maryland, as tobacco was the Chesapeake Bay region's most important crop from the seventeenth to early twentieth century. In 1838, Osborne Sprigg Harwood purchased 606 improved acres from the Maryland Western Shore Land Office, a government agency dating to the colonial period. The acreage patented as Cherry Hill was comprised primarily from the Anne Arundel Manor tract, but contained parts of Smith's or Anthony's Purchase, Red Bird's Neck, and Taylor's Search. When Osborne Harwood died in 1847, his creditors advertised an auction to sell 632.75 acres of Cherry Hill. Osborne Harwood's son Sprigg Harwood retained his inheritance Lot 1, containing 197.25 acres the Cherry Hill dwelling and outbuildings, and he purchased Lots 3 and 4, each 131 acres in size, for \$10,695. Lots 3 and 4 were described as lying on the south west or right hand side of the road leading to Calvert, supposed to be the best land of the estate, and containing a comfortable frame dwelling used as an overseer's house, large barn, and a sufficiency of wood and water. Lots 3 and 4 became known as Oakwood, and the 1850 agricultural census records the plantation's output of tobacco as 20,000 pounds, using the labor of twenty slaves. The house known as Oakwood (MIHP # AA-741) was probably built between 1850 and 1860 and occupied by Sprigg Harwood who was a politician as well as tobacco planter. In 1866, following the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, Sprigg Harwood sold the entire Oakwood plantation to Jacob Rogers Woollen. Woollen grew less tobacco than his predecessor and increased production of wheat and corn. Jacob Rogers Woollen died in 1906, but his widow, Virginia C. Woollen was still living in Anne Arundel County's first district in 1930 when she was 92 years old, heading a household containing her daughter and son-in-law, Martha and John Claytor, and nurse Ida Childe. Virginia C. Woollen began selling the Oakwood property to Thomas Stansforth Shepherd in 1927, with twelve acres. She sold him five acres in 1928 and ten acres in 1931. Thomas and Elizabeth Shepherd appear in the 1930 Census in Anne Arundel County's First District, owning their own home and having been married the previous year. Thomas, a general farmer, was born ca. 1902 and Elizabeth was born ca. 1900. They had no children in the 1930 Census, as it preceded the birth of their daughter Elizabeth. The 1930 Census records Edward Shepherd (born ca. 1896) and his mother Ellen as homeowners living near Virginia Woollen (on property to the south) as well as several African American farm laborer families who were presumably living on the Oakwood property. Following Virginia C. Woollen's death in 1937, her heirs conveyed the remaining Oakwood property to Thomas Stansforth and Elizabeth "Bessie" Shepherd, a total of 224 acres; the deed describes this land as north of

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

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Edward S. Shepherd's property.

In 1941, Thomas and Elizabeth Shepherd sold the Oakwood house and surrounding 6.97 acres to the Dodderidges, altering the character of their property by removing its architecturally and historically significant manor house. Thomas Shepherd appears to have actively farmed his property, winning a prize for white corn production at the Southern Maryland Fair in 1944. Thomas Stansforth and Elizabeth Nelson Fisher Shepherd raised one daughter, Elizabeth Stansforth Shepherd, who married Thomas Clyde Collinson in 1956. Thomas Stansforth Shepherd died in 1960. Elizabeth Nelson Fisher Shepherd died in 1992, leaving the property to Elizabeth Stansforth Shepherd Collinson, the current property owner. The property is currently cultivated for corn, soybeans, and hay, with large areas remaining wooded. Cattle are pastured in a small area near the main dwelling, and chickens occupy an even smaller enclosed pen.

The property's structural history is relatively well known. A member of the Collinson family indicated that the main house on the property dates to 1924, and that its second floor and kitchen were added in 1929. Tax records indicate the house was built in 1928. The Craftsman style of the house verifies this construction date, but the ownership of this land by Thomas Stansforth Shepherd did not begin until 1927, although presumably his brother (Edward S. Shepherd) and mother (Ellen Shepherd) were living immediately to the south already. Due to the advanced age of Virginia C. Woollen and her daughter and son-in-law, who are all listed as retired in 1930, it is plausible that a young neighbor Thomas Stansforth Shepherd began farming the Oakwood farm and was allowed to begin building a home before purchasing the land. The main dwelling represents the homemaking efforts of a young, middle-class, farm-owning family in the late 1920s. The dwelling is similar in size to houses built nearby around the same period. It is smaller than the plantation houses like Oakwood that were built by the planter class in the mid-nineteenth century, but larger than the vernacular tenant and farmhouses that were occupied by most nineteenth century farmers.

The cluster of farm buildings west of the main dwelling illustrate the farm's twentieth century character. The three-vehicle garage was built in 1947. The cow barn was built in 1952, and the tobacco barns at the main dwelling are from the 1950s. The use of concrete masonry is typical in twentieth century agricultural building, and it is present here.

The other structures on the property convey limited historic significance due to compromised integrity. The cluster of five tobacco barns southeast of Oakwood manor house lack integrity of location, having been relocated to this location in the 1960s. The tenant house, which likely dates to the early twentieth century on a site used from the nineteenth century, has been significantly altered in its materials that its historic significance has been obscured, and its material integrity has been diminished.

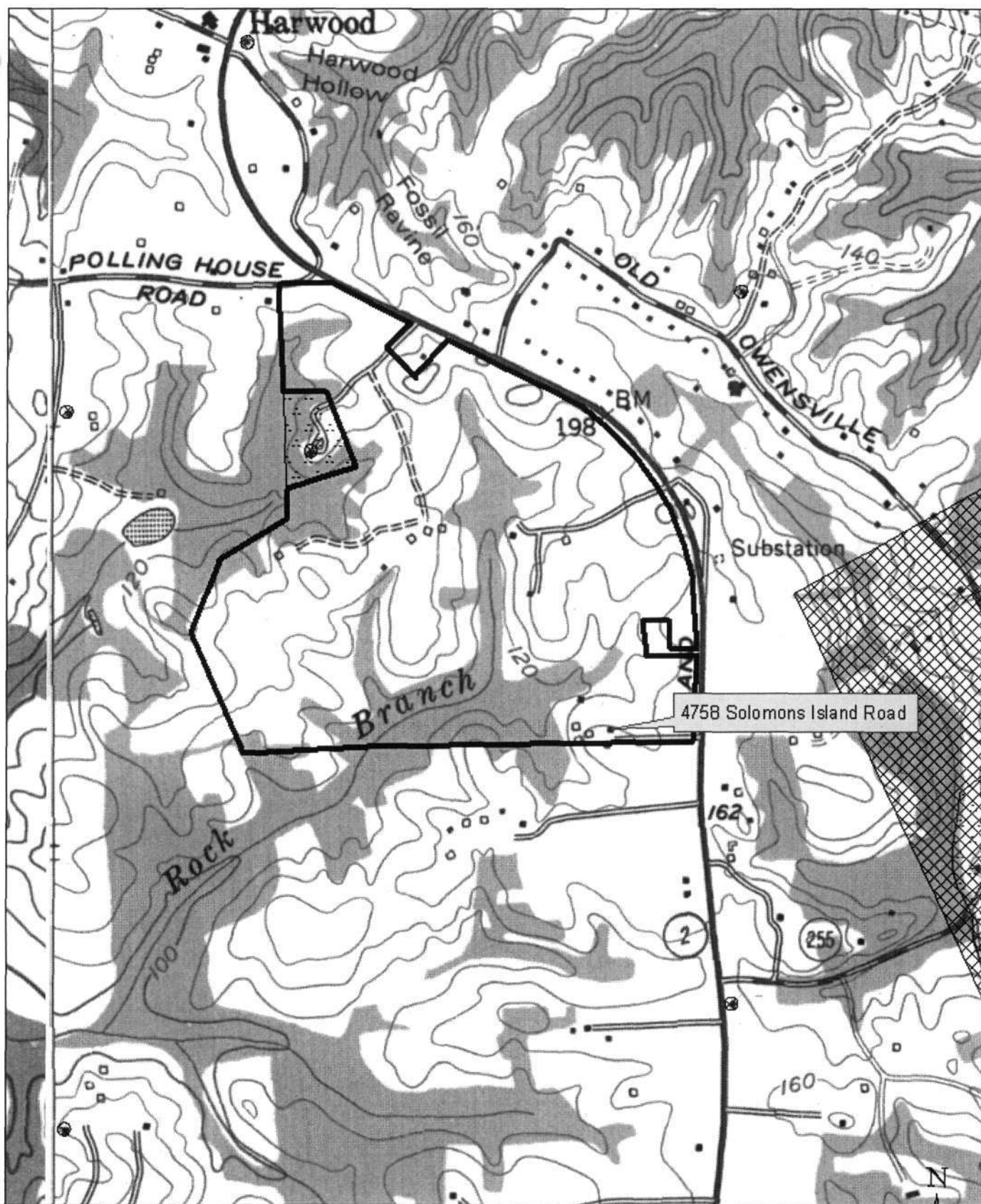
Thus the Collinson Property at 4758 Solomons Island Road is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It was evaluated using Criteria A, B, and C. The property does not meet Criteria A because it does not retain integrity to convey its history as a tobacco plantation in the nineteenth century and its illustration as a twentieth-century agricultural property is not an exceptional example. The property does not significantly represent events or patterns associated with local, state, or national history. The property does not convey its association with former landowner Sprigg Harwood, a moderately significant nineteenth-century politician in Maryland Anne Arundel County; further, it does not convey the events that make Sprigg Harwood significant to history, and the property does not meet Criteria B. The property does not meet Criterion C, as it lacks distinction

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**Eligibility Recommended:** _____**Eligibility Not Recommended:** _____**Criteria:** A B C D**Considerations:** A B C D E F G**MHT Comments:**_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

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as an example of twentieth-century residential architecture in the Craftsman style. While the house is a somewhat unique example of the Craftsman style, it is not an exceptional example, and does not convey architectural significance as the Craftsman style is commonly found throughout Maryland. It is not the work of a master and does not possess high artistic values. The Collinson Property at 4758 Solomons Island Road was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment. Therefore, the Collinson Property at 4758 Solomons Island Road is not eligible for the NRHP.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**Eligibility Recommended:** ☐**Eligibility Not Recommended:** ☐**Criteria:** ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D**Considerations:** ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G**MHT Comments:**_____
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Date



USGS Topographic Map

1:12,000

AA-2441

4758 Solomons Island Road, Harwood, MD
Anne Arundel County (Deale Quad)

0 600 1,200 2,400 Feet

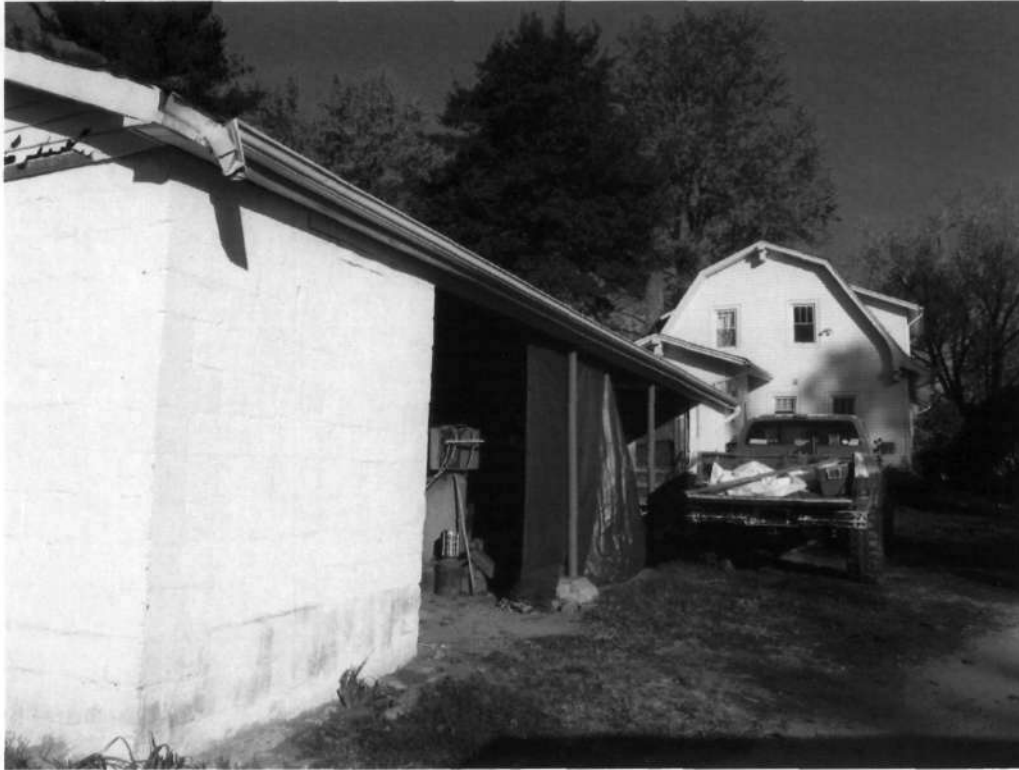
COLLISON PROPERTY



View facing west towards main house at 4758 Solomons Island Road in Harwood, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.



View facing southwest towards main house 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing northeast towards garage and main house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing west towards chicken coop at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing southwest towards cow barn at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing northwest towards tobacco barn west of the main house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing northwest towards tobacco barn located northwest of main house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing south towards tenant house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



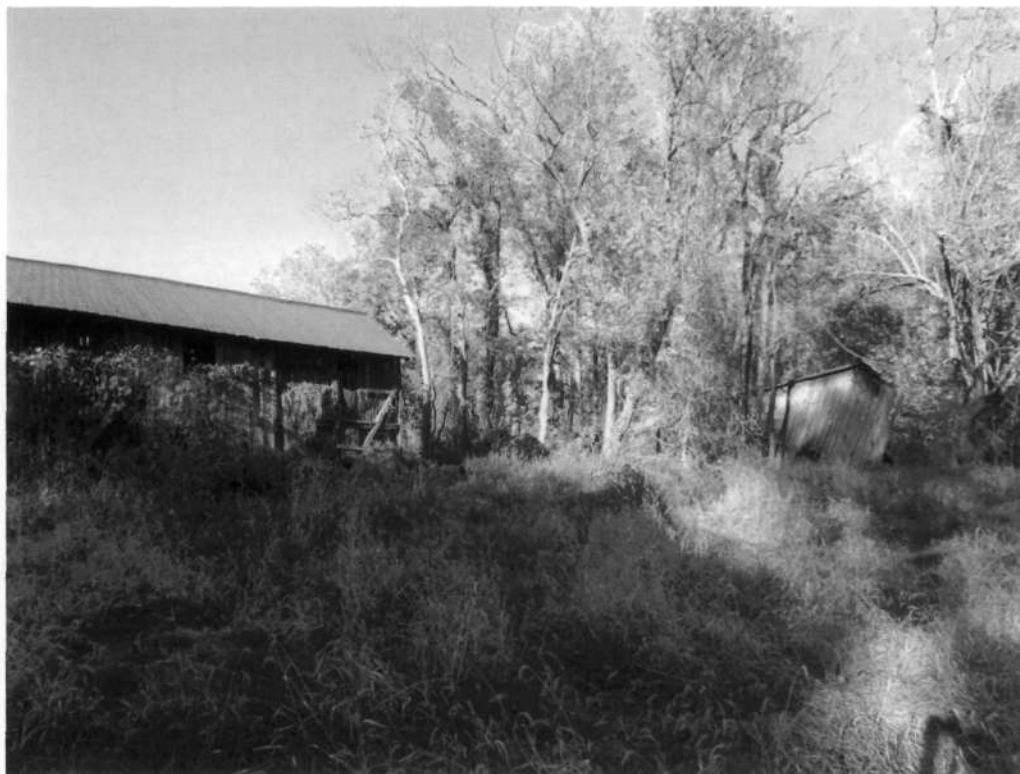
View facing south towards tobacco barns west of the tenant house at 4758 Solomons Island Road



View facing south towards tobacco barn west of the tenant house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing northwest towards tobacco barn west of tenant house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.



View facing northeast towards tobacco barns west of tenant house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.

AA - 2441



View facing west towards tobacco barn west of tenant house at 4758 Solomons Island Road.